

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The amendments set out above and the following remarks are believed responsive to the points raised by the Office Action dated June 1, 2005. In view of the amendments set out above and the following remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The Pending Claims

Claim 2 has been canceled, and claims 1 and 3-24 remain pending. Claims 9, 10, 12-16 and 18 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1 and 17 have been amended to describe the invention more clearly. No new matter has been added, the basis for the amended claim language may be found within the original specification, claims and drawings.

Claims 1 and 17 are supported at, for example, previously pending claim 2, and paragraph 0035 on page 5. Entry of the above is respectfully requested.

The Office Action

Claims 1-7, 11, 17, 19 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as anticipated by International Publication No. WO 00/35555 (hereinafter referred to as "WO '555").

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO '555.

Claims 1-8, 11, 17, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over WO '555 in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,454,044 to Klein (hereinafter referred to as "Klein").

Claims 1-8, 11, 17, and 19-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein in view of WO '555.

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

According to the Office Action, the "removed solids" disclosed in lines 15-16 of the Abstract in WO '555 are "capable of functioning as a pre-filter." The Office Action also states that even if the removed solids do not constitute treatment material, Klein teaches adding an adsorbent filter aid to an impure liquid, and then passing the resultant mixture to a filter.

As an initial point, there is no teaching in WO '555 that the removed solids are capable of functioning as a pre-filter for the filter to be treated, and WO '555 does not refer to treatment material. Moreover, WO '555 and Klein, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest a module for treating fluids comprising one or more cells "wherein the inner space of each cell at least partially contains the treatment material for the fluid, wherein the treatment material is dry."

WO '555 refers to removed solids, as noted above, and there is no reference to a cell containing dry treatment material for treating fluid. Klein merely teaches contacting impure water, i.e., water having turbidity-causing impurities, with added filter aid materials, and keeping the water and filter aid material in contact for a time sufficient for the impurities to become adsorbed on the filter aid material (column 3, line 67, through column 4, line 17). Only then, when the filter aid material is loaded with the impurities, is the impure water containing filter aid material loaded with impurities passed through a prefilter and a filter medium (column 4, lines 24-29). Accordingly, Klein does not lead one of ordinary skill in the art to a module for treating fluids wherein the inner space of each cell at least partially contains the treatment material for the fluid, wherein the treatment material is dry.

The fact that Klein may teach leaf-type filters is of no import, as neither WO '555 nor Klein cures the deficiencies noted above. Therefore, neither Klein nor WO '555, whether taken alone or in combination, renders the present invention obvious.

Since the independent claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above, the dependent claims are allowable as they depend from the novel and non-obvious independent claims.

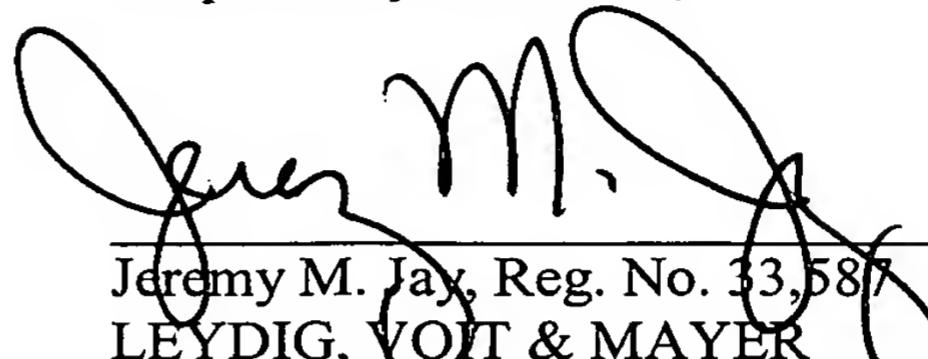
For the reasons set forth above, reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the

prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



Jeremy M. Jay, Reg. No. 33,587

LEYDIG, VOIT & MAYER

700 Thirteenth Street, N.W., Suite 300

Washington, DC 20005-3960

(202) 737-6770 (telephone)

(202) 737-6776 (facsimile)

Date: 30 Sep 2005